



FRESH GARLIC, FRESH CONNECTION



Garlic given to me by a neighbor of our house church.

The day that Sergiu was installed as the vicar at St. Paul Lutheran in Bucharest, I had to park in front of the neighbors house. I greeted them and asked them about what they were doing. They were sorting what looked like a small pick-up load of garlic.

Romanians often have large gardens, so I asked them where it all came from. They told me it was from some land outside the village. I made a little joke about how I just thought they had a “huge” garden.

After the service in our members’ home we loaded the vehicle to head home. They were still working. But they had put a bag of garlic cloves (three bunches like pictured), in next to the car. They gladly said it was for me. I offered to pay, but they refused so I thanked them greatly and wished them God’s blessings.

This was a simple interaction. But this is the sort of moment that I continue to pray the Lord will provide. These are how we can share the love of Christ simply and also nurture a relationship with people to share Him more clearly in time.



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jordan.andreassen@lcms.org

alison.andreassen@lcmsintl.org

A Vicar to Serve Bucharest



Left to Right: Rev. Dr. David Preus, Rev. Sortin Trifa, Vicar Sergiu Trifa and Rev. Jordon Andreassen



The attendees of Sergiu's installation in Bucharest.

At the beginning of June we installed Sergiu Trifa as vicar at St. Paul's in Bucharest. I had the privilege of preaching and carrying out the rite of installation on this occasion. Sergiu is the son of Rev. Sorin and Flori Trifa. He is a student at Concordia Theological Seminary in Forth Wayne. He will spend the coming year serving in Bucharest.

This could not be a better assignment. If you think it was planned, then you would be right! Sergiu grew up in Bucharest and has many friends and connections in the city. Sergiu will live in Bucharest and, by God's grace, help this congregation to be more firmly re-established. This will be an incredible blessing for our mission and the future of the church in Romania. Please pray for him and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

But his assignment will help even further. I will serve as his “supervising pastor” during this year, but he must speak to me in Romanian! Of course if we get “stuck” he will help in English, but this will go a long way to improving my Romanian to be more conversational and natural. We have arranged for weekly meetings and get along very well.

Sergiu also comes as a Romanian with the blessing of the training from our seminaries. The theological and practical preparation from our seminaries is an incredible blessing for pastors in Europe. I pray that this will not be his only year, but that he may return and serve here for the good of the Gospel.

-Rev. Jordon Andreassen

Family Updates



KID'S CORNER—ETHAN (4)

Favorite thing about Romania?

"Dinosaur hunting." (His imagination is really growing!)

What do you miss about America?

"Ruger" (Our dog, now staying with Jordon's brother.)

What is something different between America and Romania?

"Carpet" (Fully carpeted rooms are much less common.)

What is your favorite Romanian word?

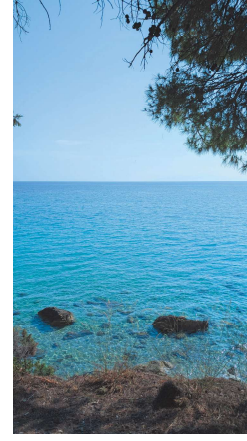
"Doi." (Two)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our Summer outreach plans in Romania, which include a VBS and some Family Fun Picnics.
- The Church near Thessaloniki, Greece that it would continue to grow in faith, knowledge, and God willing, numerically as well.
- Our continued language learning.

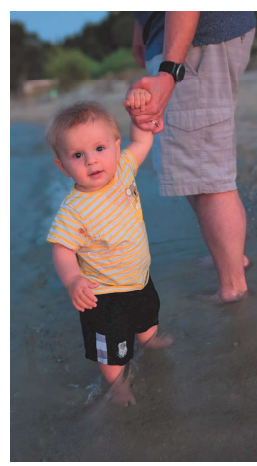
WE GIVE THANKS FOR:

- Safe travels as we traveled to Greece and back.
- For the Corpus Christi Conference held in Prague.
- Relationships made at the kids' school that have continued this summer.
- Our Regional Team who hears our thought and concerns and our ideas for mission work in this part of the world.



We went to Greece as a family to explore and to visit the Lutheran family that lives here. Here are some pictures! Picture descriptions clockwise from top:

The boys in front of an olive tree with their souvenirs from Greece —Arch of Galerius in Thessaloniki, Greece—A view of the Aegean Sea—A cornerstone of a fortress wall—Jordon in an ancient Christian church near Thessaloniki—a close up of the mosaic floor in that church. Untouched and unfortunately unpreserved—Jordon and Jordan looking at hymns translated into Greek in order to see how theologically sound they are.—Alison and the girls helping Iro in the kitchen—Simeon in the Aegean Sea—Lutherans aka olive shoots at the base of an olive tree. May the Lord continue to grow us all in the unity of the faith until we reach full maturity!



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Prayerfully consider partnering with the LCMS to support the work of Rev. Jordon Andreasen. Make checks payable to:

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